

April 9, 1984

LB 466

is we in effect set up a public funding vehicle so that the state can engage in a program which it could easily engage in through general fund revenues and I think that is totally and absolutely inappropriate.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson, just a moment. (Gavel). Could we have it a little more quiet in here so we could hear the speaker, please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I can appreciate the noise in here. It is the last day of the legislative session and I know the folk are anxious to leave and so on and so forth, but in fact if we left without overriding this veto, that would be fine by me. But I do think, I think it is important, I think that Governor Thone was correct, he was correct when he vetoed this same measure four years ago. Governor Kerrey is correct in vetoing this measure today, or last week, and the correctness lies in protecting the income tax return from a voluntary checkoff program for any program that we as a state could fund. If we can fund it, then we ought to fund it. But to let our tax return be used for a voluntary payment into a program that we can fund elevates one choice above other choices and more importantly does not protect our tax return for a checkoff system to do those things that it is far more difficult to do politically and judiciously with public dollars, i.e., campaign finance. I would urge you to support the Governor on his veto of LB 466.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. President and colleagues, I would just make a couple points, a reminder here before we vote on this issue. Again, there is no tax money involved. The start up cost will be repaid. I can't argue with Senator Johnson and a couple others who have a philosophical hang-up with checkoffs but I would ask you this I guess. Why is our philosophy so much different than 32 other states that have this program? I would remind the members, one thing before you vote on this, this is one of the few bills that was not brought to us by industry or by a state agency or by a special interest group. It was brought to us by some